CCT333; (LEC0101, PRA6003)

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Assignment #1

He shoots, WITH WHAT?

If you already don’t know, my names Christopher Gomes, 20 years old and studying at UTM and

Sheridan in a program called Digital Enterprise Management, aka DEM. Sounds flashy, and really it is,

this program is very interesting as it seems to give me an edge to the fast moving society we live in. Not

to mention, the ladies love when they hear some program that they do not even know, they get lost in

translation basically.

I am a very athletic individual; I play both soccer and hockey, and also officiate high level soccer

and hockey also. I love sports; therefore my inspiring object comes from one sport. My love for both

sports runs deep, I have played competitive soccer and hockey and seem to not get enough of both.

One day I want to be successful firstly, but secondly be engaged in sports in a big way, that is my true

love. Having a Sports kind of job, would be a bonus to get paid.

Hockey is my favourite sport. Currently I just play men’s, aka “Beer League” hockey with some

old friends or during winter season my friends and I go to outdoor rinks in Etobicoke to play or some

nearby pond. I officiate high level hockey as well; lining in the OHA; Junior A, B, C and D hockey, also

officiate in GTHL; AAA and AA hockey and then in the MHL; house league hockey. I take officiating

serious, because I am still chasing the dream, could not do it as a player, but I going to try my best to still

get there (NHL). Then other than that I tend to watch a lot of hockey, probably the only thing I watch on

TV, and sometimes I will bet, but one thing, never bet on the leafs, they are so inconsistent, it drives me

nuts being a leaf fan sometimes.

The one object that has really astonished me the most has been inspiring me ever since I have

been a kid (started playing when I was 4years old), has been the hockey stick. Remember, I am 20, not

50, sticks had a curve when I was younger, so I am not focused on that, more of the material used to

make sticks compare to before. It has had its toll on me as a person as well. When I was first playing

hockey in the early 1990s, the hockey stick used to be made of wood and the lamination of the wood

was popular with the additions of fibreglass and synthetic coatings. Once I started playing competitive

AA and AAA hockey, which was when more of a variety of sticks started to come into the hockey market.

I started with wood, and then moved on to an aluminum stick; mine was a two-piece stick, so I had to buy

separate a wooden blade.

I live a comfortable and healthy life with my parents now; like we are not rich, but not poor at

the same time. Hockey on the other part, especially played at the AAA and AA levels are not cheap, let

alone all the equipment needed to play hockey is a lot. Also, to mention there was a gate fee of $3 when

I could remember, now it is $6 for both the player and parent, which I find ridiculous, after paying 2-

10grand on a season of hockey. I come from a family of 6, with 3 other siblings and we all played hockey,

and honestly for my parents it was crazy and they put a lot of time and money into us, and I thank them

a lot. I only realize this now, after being out of hockey and actually being mature enough to think about

it too. It kept me out of trouble, met some cool people that I still keep in touch with and learnt a lot

from playing on various teams throughout my life.

So when it came to dishing out money, my dad was tight with it, always looking for great sale

prices and deals for us. I gave him a hard time when I was younger and stubborn, but now I don’t blame

him, hockey is a lot of money. My dad use to always say, “It’s a rich man’s game!” So when I started to

not like my aluminum stick and wanted a composite stick, just like all the other kids on my team, I was

really discouraged when my dad was not quick to react like all the other parents. They were in a sense

“The new and better” stick to buy at the time. I got teased by some kids too that tried to bully me on the

team because I was considered “different.” I was a good hockey player, so it was in a sense bringing me

down emotionally as a player.

I had one bad year of hockey; my dad finally got fed up with all of it, and took us all out of

hockey within 2 years. Still I did not upgrade my stick to the new composite sticks. At the time they were

about $200 and went up from there, but the only thing is that they were not as durable as they are

made now. I never wanted to be away from the game I loved, so I played high school hockey and that

was when I started to officiate hockey, at about age 16; but that is a whole story within itself. I finally

got a job, worked at a local grocery store by my house and the first thing I saved up for was a new

composite hockey stick. I was looking around for a long time, and then finally purchased one.

I remember the moment like it was yesterday. I went with my close buddy Ryan and my brother

Corey. I did not inform my dad about this purchase at all. I purchased an Easton Synergy stick from

Sportschek during the Winter of 2005 during a Boxing day sale. It cost me just over $300, one of the

higher end sticks, because really I worked so hard for it, and wanted one that I would be happy. It was

my little treat to myself. I had the greatest smile on my face and literally that same day I went to go play

outdoor hockey with my buddies in my backyard; I had a homemade outdoor ice rink in my backyard at

the time.

Now hockey sticks have even more of a variety, as more technological advancement into

Titanium, Kevlar and even Graphite (Carbon Fiber) sticks have been put into the market. These

advancements has sparked new companies like Warrior and Graf, and even a company like Sher-Wood

(known for its original wood sticks), got into the one-piece composite stick market. Wood sticks are

almost history, as they are really hard to find, but if you do, they sell for peanuts compared to the one-

piece sticks. One cannot complain much as the advancement in sticks gives greater shots with a more

durable and lighter stick than before. Not to mention you still have high-end sticks, but now with the

competition being so high, they are cheaper prices for sticks.